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Chair: Ms. Mejia (Colombia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/71/94, A/71/96, A/71/114, A/71/119, A/71/120 and A/71/121)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (*continued*) (A/71/316)

1. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem agreed to at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem was a laudable achievement and represented an ambitious way forward.

2. Sri Lanka had enacted comprehensive legislation to implement the multiple international and regional conventions to which it was party, which had been complemented since 2005 by its national policy on drug control. The Government worked closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), other United Nations entities and civil society in combating drug-related problems. The challenge in Sri Lanka was not the production, but the trafficking of drugs, and the increase in heroin consumption. Measures had been taken to establish a centre for sharing intelligence on drug trafficking among South and South-East Asian nations and to provide residential treatment and rehabilitation services for drug dependent persons. Laws had also been passed enabling judges to prescribe treatment for drug offenders in lieu of punishment. The overall goal was to reduce both the use and supply of drugs to minimum levels by 2020 through a broad approach that addressed the links between drug abuse, poverty reduction, crime prevention and health. Given the international dimension of the drug problem, however, no State could combat it alone. The fight required cooperation and coordination among countries and international organizations.

3. **Mr. Castañeda Solares** (Guatemala) said that public institutions in Central America were under constant threat from well-armed organized crime groups. The cure should not be worse than the disease, but the focus on crime prevention consumed significant public resources and diverted attention away from other social needs. In Guatemala the problem was hampering the consolidation of the country's democratic institutions as well as its development. Caught between producer and consumer countries, countries like Guatemala were assuming a disproportionate burden of the fight against drug trafficking. The links between drug trafficking, organized crime, arms trafficking and money laundering posed major challenges that called for integrated approaches to be adopted at all levels to reduce the social costs involved. At the same time, proportionality in law enforcement, alternatives to imprisonment for misdemeanours, and special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable must be pursued.

4. The outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem marked a major step forward in three key respects: human health and wellbeing were reaffirmed as the goal of international drug control conventions, which encouraged a public-health response rather than a merely punitive one; it was agreed that drug policies should be person- rather than substance-focused, in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and it was acknowledged that international conventions allowed countries to adopt the policies they deemed appropriate for their situations. One of the key changes required in current drug policy was to prioritize the reduction of demand rather than just the supply.

5. The outcome document had reflected the need for a new declaration to reflect new realities: the momentum generated by the special session must now be maintained, and the United Nations must continue to provide guidance on the matter. No country could tackle the drug problem alone.

6. **Mr. Ayad** (Iraq) said that the independence of the judiciary in his country promoted respect for criminal justice principles, strengthened the rule of law and facilitated efforts to combat crime. Iraq had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2009 and was also a party to most regional and international instruments in that area. To promote the reintegration into society of persons convicted of minor offences, Iraq had enacted an amnesty law in 2016 and, to ensure that the rights of victims of crimes were upheld, had amended the country's code of criminal procedure. Furthermore, in line with its obligations pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and stemming from its belief that corruption undermined trust in State

institutions, hindered development and prevented the poor from accessing basic services, Iraq had established an independent unit on integrity that was subject to parliamentary oversight to prevent and combat corruption and promote transparency at all levels of Government.

7. Terrorists belonging to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continued to perpetrate the most heinous crimes in Iraq, including murder, torture, trafficking in persons, and acts of terrorism that targeted markets, schools and factories. ISIL terrorists were also involved in money laundering and the looting of and illegal trade in antiquities. Iraq had drawn attention in numerous forums to the dangerous links between terrorism and organized crime, and had welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2195 (2014) and 2199 (2015), which had strengthened the international legal framework for combating the financing of terrorism and had highlighted the increasingly strong relationship between transnational organized crime and terrorism.

8. UNODC was providing Iraq with technical assistance and helping to train Iraqis working with the country's law enforcement authorities. Iraq would continue its efforts to combat all criminal activity, including by ISIL terrorist gangs, and, in that connection, underscored that the most significant form of crime was terrorism, which threatened peace and security, impeded sustainable development and economic activity, and undermined good governance and the rule of law. Iraq thanked the organizations and friendly countries that were supporting its efforts to uphold the rule of law and human rights, and called on all States to strengthen their cooperation so that they could more effectively combat all forms of criminal activity, including terrorism-related crimes.

9. **Mr. Bunyaritthipong** (Thailand) said that combating human trafficking remained a priority in Thailand. Stronger measures were being taken in accordance with the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and other relevant protocols. More effective law enforcement had led to a rise in the prosecution of traffickers, and gender and victim-sensitive considerations had been mainstreamed into criminal procedures. Under its prevention strategy, the Government was raising awareness of the risks of trafficking and investing heavily in development to improve the quality of life of persons at risk, especially underprivileged women in rural areas. It was also working closely with the private sector, which was benefiting from the reduction of corruption costs in supply chains, and continued to promote the notion that respect for human rights was good for business.

10. Fair treatment of offenders was at the heart of criminal justice system. The Penitentiary Act had been brought into line with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules). The national strategy to combat the drug problem covered prevention, suppression, treatment and rehabilitation, as well as social reintegration and alternative development initiatives to address poverty and lack of opportunity, two of the root causes.

11. Crime prevention and international drug control benefited from the involvement of all sectors in inclusive partnerships that generated synergies. Data collection, capacity building and financial resources were also important. Thailand thanked UNODC for its active role in building capacities and providing guidance for the implementation of international legal instruments to combat drugs and crime.

12. **Mr. Ong** (Singapore) said that Singapore's status as a major transport nexus and trans-shipment hub had made it particularly susceptible to transnational criminal activity and the Government had responded with strong measures. The Prevention of Human Trafficking Act served both to deter trafficking in persons and support the rehabilitation of victims. The Organised Crime Act of 2015, meanwhile, allowed law enforcement to target syndicates operating across jurisdictions and to confiscate assets obtained through organized criminal activity.

13. There was no one-size-fits-all approach towards addressing the drug issue. Singapore had adopted a comprehensive, balanced, sustained and tough approach to tackling drug supply and demand that included comprehensive rehabilitation services and was suited to its unique circumstances and norms. The overall objective was to protect individuals and families from the dangers of drugs, wean abusers off their addiction and protect regional security. Singapore

strongly supported the centrality of the three international drug control conventions and would implement the recommendations in the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

14. To respond to the growing threat to cybercrime, Singapore had launched a cyber security agency in 2015 and signed memorandums of understanding with many countries to improve cooperation on the subject. Singapore had hosted the fourth INTERPOL-Europol Cybercrime Conference in September 2016 and would soon host the inaugural Singapore International Cyber Week as part of efforts to facilitate discussions with key stakeholders on potential areas for collaboration and contribute to the work of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. Given the transnational nature of cyberattacks, Singapore hoped that the Group would make greater efforts to engage the views and inputs of the wider United Nations membership.

15. Singapore was an active participant in international processes, had acceded to key United Nations conventions on transnational crime and would continue to seek to deepen its cooperation with regional and international partners such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). As the host of the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation, Singapore was pleased to report that the Complex had strengthened the global presence of INTERPOL and enhanced its partnerships in Asia.

16. **Mr. Warraich** (Pakistan) said that the dynamics of the drug problem in producer, transit and target countries varied considerably and there were no one-size-fits-all solutions. Pakistan's geographical location had made it both a target and a transit country for the global opiate and cannabis trade. A robust, comprehensive legal and administrative framework had been put in place to counter the menace, while prioritizing treatment and rehabilitation, as well as reduction in demand. The sizeable seizures of illicit drugs recorded in the country, including 342 tons the previous year, and Pakistan's contribution to drug seizures globally were a testament to its accomplishments in combating drug trafficking.

17. Pakistan was concerned by the emerging trend in some parts of the world to legalize the use of illicit drugs. The approach was counterproductive: it would boost demand and ignite the supply chain with direct fallout in his region. The three existing United Nations drug control conventions should be treated as the repository of the core guiding principles for developing an international approach to combating drugs. The objective, after all, was to build a drug-free society, not a drug-tolerant one. Efforts should focus more on mustering resources to build the capacity of the prime target and transit countries, as the frontline in the war against narcotic drugs, according to the threat they faced and their core contributions to the cause.

18. Transnational organized crime manifested itself in different forms, including trafficking in persons and firearms, migrant smuggling and money laundering. Pakistan had become party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, and a special financial monitoring unit had been set up in the State Bank to cooperate with other countries in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. Cooperation at the national, regional and international levels remained the key, and mechanisms such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and UNODC needed to be strengthened.

19. **Mr. Dahlwy** (Saudi Arabia) said that the unprecedented security challenges affecting many parts of the world underscored the need for all States to work more closely together to combat crime and strengthen their criminal justice systems. To that end, it was essential that they enhanced respect for human rights and the rule of law. Indeed, crime undermined the rule of law and impeded development. Reliable indicators were therefore needed so that States could assess the extent to which the rule of law was respected, the success of crime prevention strategies, and the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, with a view to measuring progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

20. His country was making every effort to combat crime and strengthen its justice system, and was developing a justice sector that was capable of adapting to changing circumstances. Saudi Arabia called on States to share best practices in that area,

including the treatment of detainees and their reintegration into society and, in that regard, invited Member States to study the experience of the Prince Muhammad bin Naif Centre for Counselling and Care, which, through dialogue, was seeking to promote non-extremist views and behaviour among members of certain targeted groups.

21. Based on its Islamic conviction that all substances that endangered human life must be prohibited, Saudi Arabia made every effort to combat the use of illicit drugs. Numerous campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of drugs and their impact on individuals and society as a whole were carried out. They included an online training course designed by the National Project on Prevention of Drugs (Nebras) on ways to combat drugs, which had been taken by 30,000 Arabic speakers around the world.

22. Saudi Arabia was working closely with the international community to combat the illegal drugs trade, which was closely related to the financing of terrorism and, consequently, posed a threat to the security and political stability of States. His country was also striving to counter the actions of State sponsors of terrorism and criminal activity in the Middle East and beyond. Action taken to that end by Saudi Arabia included the sentencing of 12 members of the Lebanese terrorist militia known as Hizbullah and other entities linked to that militia, who had been involved in terrorist crimes across the Middle East.

23. In closing, he called on all Member States to redouble their efforts to address the threat posed by drugs and crime, and emphasized that the sovereign right of all States to establish their own legal systems and decide appropriate penalties for offences must be respected.

24. **Ms. Kupradze** (Georgia) said that crime prevention and effective criminal justice systems were essential for achieving safe, just and inclusive societies and promoting human rights. Over the previous decade Georgia had implemented several reforms as part of its commitment to public safety and the rule of law, and crime rates had fallen significantly as a result. The Criminal Code had been revised, in close cooperation with the European Union, to bring it into line with international standards on matters such as repeat offenders, insanity defences and errors of law or fact. Anti-discrimination legislation had also been amended to criminalize any incitement of hatred that entailed an obvious, direct threat of violence.

25. Another major achievement was the development of a comprehensive policy framework for juvenile justice, which included a standalone juvenile justice code that expanded the alternatives to criminal prosecution and the sanctions available to judges to ensure that detention and imprisonment were only measures of last resort, as required under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments. Crime prevention centres and rehabilitation services for juveniles, as well as diversion, mediation and resocialization programmes, had also been established. In addition, standards for the institutions authorized to provide services to young persons in conflict with the law had been developed with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Several complementary projects had been implemented in cooperation with civil society and international organizations, including an e-book project, which provided one-year community service opportunities to young persons diverted from the criminal justice system to help them develop computer and literacy skills. Georgia remained committed to criminal justice reform and to placing prevention at the heart of its efforts in that area.

26. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, as a country on the frontline of the war against illicit drugs, the Islamic Republic of Iran had sustained huge losses of life and expended billions of dollars in order to deprive the merchants of death of the bulk of their illicit drugs and protect part of the global community from the evil of addiction. Around 4,000 Iranian law enforcement officers had lost their lives and 12,000 had been maimed in the country's relentless campaign to stem the flow of drugs. As a result, on average, over 80 per cent of global opium output and 40 per cent of global heroin and morphine output were seized in the Islamic Republic of Iran: 620 tons of illicit drugs had been seized in 2015 alone.

27. In parallel, the Government had implemented comprehensive programmes to reduce demand for drugs, which included prevention, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation services. The coverage of the prevention programmes and voluntary enrolment in harm-reduction and treatment services now stood at

40 per cent, one of the highest rates in the world. As a result, HIV transmission among intravenous drug users had fallen by 60 per cent. Under the Government's community-based approach, over 85 per cent of demand-reduction programmes were run by non-governmental and private organizations. To reduce the prison population, alternative punishment plans for those convicted of drug-related offences had been implemented, and harm-reduction and treatment services had been introduced in prisons.

28. The Iranian Government called for the adoption of a balanced and comprehensive strategy to combat illicit drugs that, away from political considerations, ensured the expansion of regional and international cooperation on the principle of collective and international shared responsibility. Unfortunately, the brunt of the burden was still mainly borne by transit countries like Iran. While drug traffickers with links to terrorist groups and organized crime targeted the fabric of Iranian society and stole its youth, the support provided by the international community had been negligible.

29. With regard to mechanisms, the three international drug control conventions, by virtue of their scope and flexibility, formed the bedrock of the international system to combat illicit drugs; and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNODC should continue playing the leading role in addressing the global drug problem.

30. **Mr. Saito** (Japan) said that the inclusion of a focus on crime prevention and criminal justice in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been an important achievement of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Japan would be hosting the Fourteenth Congress in 2020 and his Government looked forward to discussing its theme with Member States, UNODC and other stakeholders. Japan continued to play an active role in implementing the joint commitment adopted at the April 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. Countering the spread of synthetic drugs was highly important; his Government thus actively supported the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

31. As the 2016 chair of the Group of Seven, Japan was leading implementation of the action plan on countering terrorism and violent extremism released at the Ise-Shima Summit. The Government had taken action to promote transparency and strengthen law enforcement cooperation to increase momentum in the global fight against corruption. Further capacity-building and enhanced international cooperation were needed to combat cybercrime. Fighting money-laundering and the financing of terrorists was crucial to suppress terrorism; in that connection, Japan followed the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, continued to improve its national legal systems and contributed to relevant international efforts.

32. **Ms. al-Khater** (Qatar) said that, undoubtedly, crime prevention and criminal justice efforts promoted peace and fostered sustainable development. Qatar believed it was important to monitor progress towards the attainment of the SDGs and, to that end, had helped launch the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. States must strive to strengthen their criminal justice systems and to establish national societies and an international community governed by the rule of law and in which freedom and justice prevailed. In that regard, Qatar was proud to have hosted the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015, which had concluded that crime prevention and criminal justice must be integrated into the wider United Nations agenda in order to address social and economic challenges and promote the rule of law at the national and international levels.

33. In line with its obligations pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Qatar had established an independent national committee on integrity and transparency. Corruption and money laundering were perceived as being much less prevalent in her country than in other States in the region. Qatar had also provided financial support to facilitate the activities of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had helped to convene the fourth Arab Forum on Asset Recovery in 2015. Qatar had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, was a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, and had adopted legislation to combat that phenomenon and protect victims and witnesses who testified against

traffickers. Qatar also sponsored awareness-raising and monitoring programmes to help combat illegal drug use, and collaborated with relevant stakeholders throughout the region and beyond in investigations into drug-related criminal activity. Her country also took part in regional and international capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives. Qatar would continue its efforts to implement the outcomes of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its collaboration with UNODC with a view to fostering the creation of safe, drug-free, just and peaceful societies.

34. **Mr. Almabruk** (Libya) said that worsening levels of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion were exacerbating illegal drug-related criminal activity and corruption in many parts of the world, while many countries' weak security and oversight authorities and their limited capacity to address those challenges would undoubtedly lead to further economic, social and political instability. Robust regional and international cooperation was needed to combat the global drug problem, and many States would require sustainable and predictable technical, financial and capacity-building assistance if they were to play an effective role in that regard.

35. The adverse effects of drug use, which included the spread of HIV/AIDS, meant that it was crucial for States to redouble their efforts to combat that disease, bring the perpetrators of drug-related crimes to justice, raise public awareness of the health risks posed by illegal drugs and provide support to dedicated treatment centres.

36. Further efforts were also needed to combat transnational crime and trafficking in persons, which was undermining the security and stability of many societies and impeding development. Libya was seeking to enhance its collaboration with neighbouring countries with a view to combating transnational crime and trafficking and called for the effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the regional conference on border security that had been held in Tripoli in 2012. Libya also urgently required further technical and capacity building assistance from UNODC to facilitate its compliance with relevant United Nations conventions and agreements. Libya looked forward to the re-opening of the UNODC subregional programme office for the Maghreb countries in Tripoli and the resumption of its activities there at the earliest opportunity.

37. **Mr. Teffo** (South Africa) said that combating the increase in illicit trafficking in wildlife and forest products had become a major global priority. The outcomes of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora were commendable, as was the African rhino range States' new conservation plan, which was designed to tackle poaching and increase the rhinoceros population across the continent. Governments must ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants did not threaten their survival.

38. The launch of Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants in September 2016 in Pretoria underlined his country's commitment in that area. His Government welcomed the new global programme to address prison challenges through implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules, which would contribute to ensuring prisoners' humane treatment.

39. His Government strongly supported the implementation of the three international drug control conventions and the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. It was working to reduce alcohol and substance abuse through a national drug plan for the period from 2013 to 2017.

40. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that effective crime prevention and criminal justice institutions were essential for the establishment of the rule of law, peace, progress and prosperity; and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16. His Government was currently instituting reforms designed, inter alia, to improve the transparency, accessibility and efficiency of the judicial system, hold law enforcement bodies more accountable and reduce corruption. It had updated its criminal legislation and its justice system to make them more humane and pragmatic, as well as opening a restorative justice institute and granting an amnesty for certain crimes. As a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, Kazakhstan advocated for the elimination of trafficking and the protection of its victims.

41. Member States should implement the measures outlined in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on countering the world drug problem. His Government remained committed to addressing the problems caused by narcotic drugs, including through putting into effect the recommendations contained in the 2016 World Drug Report. Kazakhstan participated in the regional and international programmes of UNODC through the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, which had significantly improved cooperation between national and regional law enforcement agencies, and a project on the control of shipping containers in the port of Aktau. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to international efforts to rid the world of transnational crime, corruption and illicit trafficking in drugs and people.

42. **Mr. Mendoza-Garcia** (Costa Rica) said that the April 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem represented the beginning of a vital shift away from repressive policies and the war-on-drugs approach. However, while the outcome document, with its inclusion of provisions on human rights and a health-based approach, was a good point of departure, it was missing certain essential elements. A comprehensive strategy must incorporate new approaches to the drug problem, harm reduction, proportional punishments, non-applicability of the death penalty, analysis of policy effectiveness and the establishment of a panel of experts to provide strategic guidance. It was also imperative to redress the exclusion of the most vulnerable groups in society, such as people of African descent, indigenous people and people of diverse sexual orientation, by ensuring their participation in policy development.

43. Costa Rica had always taken a health-based approach to drugs. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to preventing the transmission of HIV and other diseases associated with drug abuse. It had recently reformed its criminal legislation to allow for reductions in the sentences of women considered vulnerable. No country was capable of effectively addressing such a transnational problem in isolation, however. International cooperation, including reciprocal legal assistance, was fundamental. The joint EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs and the Cooperation Programme between Latin America and the European Union on Drug Policies were good examples. The recent help from the United States Government in equipping the Costa Rican authorities to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime was appreciated. In order to meet the targets set for 2019, concrete actions in support of egalitarian, inclusive and sustainable development in line with the 2030 Agenda were needed.

44. **Mr. Uğurluoğlu** (Turkey) said that Turkey had intensified its border protection measures to combat human trafficking. However, security measures could yield only a temporary and partial solution while the root causes of migration, including conflicts, human rights violations and economic deprivation in origin countries, went unaddressed. His Government had reinforced existing measures to prevent the illegal transfer of cultural property from its country of origin in response to increasing incidences of such illicit transfer, and of destruction of cultural property. The relevant authorities were also heightening their vigilance to prevent the removal of historical artefacts from Turkey. The link between terrorism and transnational organized crime must be addressed. His Government's long battle against terrorism had demonstrated the need for effective international solidarity and cooperation.

45. The world drug problem must be approached comprehensively. Turkey contributed to bilateral and multilateral efforts to fight drug abuse and trafficking, in addition to providing training to the personnel of many national law enforcement agencies. Through its national drug strategy for the period from 2013 to 2018, his Government sought to provide a balanced, effective and coordinated approach to demand and supply issues. The recommendations that had emerged from the recent special session of the General Assembly constituted a valuable road map; his delegation looked forward to working to achieve the targets set for 2019.

46. **Mr. Adeoye** (Nigeria) reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the outcome document of the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and called for an integrated, multi-dimensional and balanced approach to the implementation of the three

international drug control conventions, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

47. His Government had passed a law in 2015 to improve the efficiency of the national criminal justice system, amended its extradition law and brought its national legislation into compliance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Government had also strengthened the national drug law enforcement agency and, in collaboration with the European Union and UNODC, developed a comprehensive national drug control plan for the period from 2015 to 2019, and strengthened preventive drug education for primary-school-age children.

48. Nigeria would continue to work with other stakeholders to ensure that stolen assets and funds were returned to their countries of origin, and his Government strongly hoped that the international community would remain engaged with those important efforts.

49. The use of West Africa as a transit channel for illicit drugs had led to security challenges, including transnational organized crime, which threatened the very existence of some countries in the region. The recently launched regional programme to address illicit drug trafficking and organized crime in West Africa, developed by UNODC and the Economic Community of West African States, was therefore welcome. Law enforcement cooperation must be strengthened at the international, regional and national levels. Capacity building and technical assistance were key to the installation of efficient criminal justice and transnational drug control systems.

50. **Mr. Bolhasan** (Brunei Darussalam) said that cooperation between countries to address the world drug problem was essential, yet Member States' freedom to establish policies that suited their individual needs must be respected. Brunei Darussalam had a zero-tolerance approach to drugs. Its successful supply and demand reduction strategy resulted in only 0.14 per cent of the population using illicit drugs annually. Raising public awareness was key to building resilient, drug-free communities. Brunei Darussalam had treatment and rehabilitation centres that supported the reintegration of drug users into the community, including by helping them to find employment. His Government stood with the other ASEAN nations in support of a drug-free ASEAN and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the three international drug conventions, as well as its support for the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the recommendations that had emerged from the 2016 special session of the General Assembly. As efforts to achieve drug-free societies were part of a broader attempt to promote health, security and well-being, it would continue to treat drugs as a national priority and to cooperate with the United Nations to address the world drug problem.

51. **Mr. Umetaliev** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the continuing use of central Asia as a route for transporting drugs between Afghanistan and the eastern European market worsened local crime and drug addiction rates, as well as hindering sustainable development in the region.

52. The expansion of the transnational drug trade had become increasingly aggressive. To prevent its growth at a national level, Kyrgyzstan had a Government anti-drug programme and a plan for its implementation, developed in conjunction with its national security concept and its sustainable development strategy for the period to 2017. Accordingly, in the first six months of 2016, Kyrgyz law enforcement authorities had uncovered 8 per cent more drug-related crimes than in the same period in 2015, as well as seizing almost 65 per cent fewer narcotic drugs in the first six months of 2016 than in the equivalent period of 2015.

53. The evolution of the drug situation and other challenges called for increased international cooperation. Kyrgyzstan was an active member of several regional organizations, as well as the International Drug Enforcement Conference, in cooperation with its partners in the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board. Furthermore, on the basis of bilateral agreements, closer cooperation with the relevant bodies of a number of countries was taking place to combat drugs.

54. Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan continued to participate as a member of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, while also cooperating with the UNODC Programme for Central Asia for the period from 2015 to 2019 and its Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. Kyrgyzstan also continued to work with Afghanistan and

Turkmenistan to suppress cross-border routes for drug transportation.

55. **Ms. Gebrekidan** (Eritrea) said that her country had taken steps to improve access to its national justice system, including by establishing and expanding community courts. The Government had also put in place new penal and civil codes and their related procedures, which were the product of extensive study of Eritrean customary laws and took into account Eritrea's international commitments.

56. Work was ongoing to improve Eritrea's prison system, including rehabilitation facilities where inmates could receive formal and vocational training. Eritrea was actively cooperating with UNODC to enhance its capacity to combat human trafficking, as well as discussing cooperation to strengthen crime prevention and the criminal justice system and address violence against women and children.

57. As a country affected by human trafficking and smuggling, Eritrea had established legal, institutional and administrative frameworks to protect its nationals from criminal networks. In addition, an anti-money laundering proclamation had been introduced and border security initiatives had been taken. At the regional level, Eritrea had recently organized a workshop to engage and share experiences with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

58. In order to effectively tackle irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling, Eritrea had joined forces with transit and destination countries, as well as regional and international bodies. It had also submitted a project proposal to address human trafficking as part of its involvement with the African Union Commission Initiative against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Khartoum Process. Mass media and community meetings in all administrative districts were increasing public awareness of those crimes and the role of society in prevention and response. Economic and political projects were also being implemented to address the underlying causes of migration.

59. Certain European countries granted automatic asylum status to Eritrean nationals, which had encouraged many Eritreans to risk their lives in search of higher living standards. Although many Eritrean nationals continued to be exposed to human traffickers and smugglers, increased engagement with European destination countries had facilitated an objective assessment of the situation and resulted in the rectification of approaches to irregular migration.

60. **Mr. Bouassila** (Algeria) said that efforts made by the international community to complement the African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control for the period from 2013 to 2017 would enhance the achievement of that Plan's objectives, as well as the goal of a drug-free continent under the African Union's Agenda 2063. In that regard, implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 meeting of the Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies would strengthen regional cooperation in order to effectively counter the world drug problem.

61. As a transit country, Algeria was concerned by the weakness of existing policies on limiting the supply of drugs. Decriminalizing the use of drugs, particularly cannabis, was a retreat from the gains achieved in previous decades. At the national level, Algeria was therefore implementing a strategy to strengthen the role of civil society in raising awareness of drug-related risks and to recognize drug use as a health problem. With regard to the connections between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including in connection with the financing of terrorism, the Algerian legal framework had been updated and specialized judicial entities had been established to investigate those areas, in addition to a legal framework for witness protection.

62. Furthermore, in order to combat trafficking in persons, Algeria would strengthen its legislative and institutional measures to support the victims of trafficking, in accordance with existing international instruments. With regard to terrorism, the Algerian strategy for combating violent extremism was based on a high level of mobilization and vigilance by all security forces to protect public order and the safety of all people and property, as well as the implementation of a comprehensive deradicalization policy combining political, economic, social, cultural and religious measures.

63. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that, like other States bordering Afghanistan, his country was on the frontline of combating drug trafficking. Tajikistan therefore paid particular attention to strengthening and developing international cooperation and promoted initiatives aimed at the joint and coordinated action of

all interested countries and international organizations. The international community must coordinate measures aimed at reducing drug demand and supply, and integrate efforts undertaken at the national and regional levels into the international strategy for narcotics control.

64. In order to respond effectively to the world drug problem, a global multilevel system of international cooperation should be established with the United Nations as a coordinating centre. In that regard, and on the basis of its own experiences, Tajikistan had developed an anti-narcotics strategy that included short-term and long-term action programmes, as well as collaboration and cooperation on a bilateral and multilateral basis. The Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan continued its work, while anti-narcotic interactions with neighbouring countries had been developing efficiently.

65. In addition, a national strategy on combating illicit drug trafficking in Tajikistan in the period between 2013 and 2020 aimed to significantly reduce the illicit distribution of narcotic drugs and their non-medical use, to reduce the scale of the consequences of their illicit trafficking for health, safety, society and State security, as well as to expand international cooperation. Measures taken by the Government of Tajikistan had created the conditions for reducing the number of drug-related crimes, while joint measures taken by the Government, donor countries and international organizations had contributed to drug control programmes and enhanced cooperation.

66. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that his country had enacted a Human Trafficking and Transportation Control Act in line with international conventions and protocols, as well as being a party to several anti-terrorism instruments which were being fully implemented. To combat the emerging challenges of transnational crime, Nepal had enacted effective laws on mutual legal assistance and the elimination of organized crime and money laundering.

67. At the national level, the Nepalese Government was implementing a number of drug control policies and strategies, as well as directives for the operation of rehabilitation centres and guidelines on oral substitution therapy for drug users. A national coordination committee for drug abuse control reviewed the implementation of relevant legal instruments, while seventy-five district committees acted as local enforcement units. At the regional level, Nepal continued its work as a party to the Colombo Plan.

68. **Mr. Oppenheimer** (Netherlands) said that, despite the success of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, greater efforts were needed in addressing restricted access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, ensuring proportionate sentencing and exploring alternatives to incarceration and health-based intervention options.

69. However, local and national practices that had not been recognized in the outcome document of the special session, such as stronger support for evidence-based drugs policies, must be acknowledged. It was regrettable that the outcome document had not addressed the death penalty, despite many countries taking steps to reduce the number of offences for which capital punishment could be imposed. Extra-judicial killings, furthermore, were a flagrant violation of the right to life.

70. His delegation welcomed the focus on implementation of the recommendations from the special session, which should involve such United Nations entities as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as civil society.

71. **Mr. Thein** (Myanmar) said that his country continued to implement the Country Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on Myanmar and the Partnership Against Transnational Crime through Regional Organized Law Enforcement. In order to combat human trafficking, Myanmar was enhancing regional cooperation and using regional and national action plans to focus on policy, protection, prevention, prosecution and reintegration. In addition, a 2005 law against trafficking in persons was being updated. In cooperation with international partners and other stakeholders, Myanmar would continue to strengthen anti-trafficking measures with regard to the United States Department of State's 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report.

72. Drug control should focus on effective law enforcement and the justice system and should take a

multisectoral approach including such factors as public health, social improvement and human rights. At the national level, Myanmar had been implementing the fourth phase of its five-year drug elimination programme, part of a fifteen-year national plan. Furthermore, with technical assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Myanmar had been undertaking drug abuse control measures alongside China, Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Bilateral agreements with a number of countries in the region on the control and suppression of drug abuse and drug trafficking remained in place.

73. Efforts to eradicate opium continued through educating poppy farmers with the aim of reducing cultivation, while development projects enabling the farmers to generate alternative sources of income had been introduced. As poppies were generally grown in areas lacking essential infrastructure and facing food shortages, it was vital to fulfil the socio-economic needs of the people living in those areas.

74. Treatment and rehabilitation for drug users was provided at a number of centres , including methadone maintenance clinics and youth rehabilitation centres. Campaigns had been launched to encourage use of those centres. Furthermore, the consequences of illicit drug use were addressed in the national life skills curriculum to raise awareness among school students. Media campaigns, public talks, exhibitions and essay competitions were continuously carried out in schools and in communities across Myanmar through Government efforts and in cooperation with various United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and local partners.

75. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines) said that the country's development efforts had been impeded by pervasive corruption, worsening crime and prevalent drug abuse, all of which were interconnected. A significant number of villages were affected by the drug menace, with almost 3 million drug users in need of assistance. A police campaign had resulted in the seizure of an estimated $73 million worth of illegal drugs, and 700,000 people had submitted themselves to the authorities for intervention and rehabilitation. The drive to eliminate the drug trade and other corrupt practices from the Philippines was fully compliant with the rule of law and due process.

76. The Philippine Government also sought to protect the 10 per cent of its population working abroad as migrants, and had established a comprehensive regulatory support framework with international partners. The recently amended Migrant Workers and Anti-Human Trafficking Act strengthened measures to protect migrants from maltreatment abroad and facilitate transnational assistance to victims and the pursuit of perpetrators. The Inter-Agency Council against Human Trafficking had been created to oversee law enforcement and the implementation of anti-trafficking initiatives, with 46 human trafficking convictions obtained in 2015.

77. **Mr. Tituaña Matango** (Ecuador) said that the conventional international strategy for solving the world drug problem had been unsuccessful as the supply of illegal drugs would always exist while there was demand, which was highest in developed countries. An estimated 90 per cent of the proceeds of the illicit drug trade were laundered in Northern banks, yet the countries in the South suffered most from the prohibitionist drug policy and were listed as money-laundering sites. Ecuador called for new approaches to replace the existing punitive model, and for countries in which drug consumption was highest to accept their role in perpetuating the problem. The international community also needed to address the problem of tax havens, which were associated with money laundering and the proceeds of criminal activity.

78. Ecuador reaffirmed the importance of shared responsibility and a coordinated, interdisciplinary approach in tackling the socioeconomic nature of the drug issue. The country's Preventive Alternative Development policy sought to ensure sustained and sustainable socioeconomic development in areas vulnerable to the cultivation or smuggling of drugs and related crimes. The national drug policy aimed to limit drug trafficking while also focusing on prevention and rehabilitation to prevent the marginalization of drug users. Indeed, the Constitution approached addiction as a public health issue. A combined effort was essential to prevent micro-trafficking. It was also crucial to centre drug policies around people rather than substances, and to guarantee human rights.

79. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that, in accordance with its regional and international commitments, his country had enacted legislation and established

dedicated authorities to combat transnational organized crime, corruption and related crimes. It accorded particular attention to the situation of children in conflict with the law, and child protection units had been established in the police and armed forces. Sudan had also established a unit to combat all forms of violence against women, which was under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security, and had enacted legislation to combat human trafficking, particularly the trafficking of women and children. Furthermore, with the support of the African Union and the European Union, his country had hosted an international conference in 2014 on human trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa and a follow-up conference had been held on that theme in Italy later that year. He called on donor countries to provide Sudan with the support it required to implement the outcomes of the two conferences. Sudan had also signed border control agreements with neighbouring States to strengthen its efforts to combat arms trafficking and the activities of organized criminal gangs and terrorists.

80. Sudan had adopted a national strategy on illicit drugs in 2015 and had also passed a number of related laws, including a law to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The country's financial investigations unit had been strengthened and Sudan had also streamlined the procedures by which the country dealt with extradition requests and could seize illicitly-gained financial assets. Sudan had also amended the law on combating illicit drugs and psychotropic substances to bring it into line with relevant international instruments and had adopted regulations to ensure that drugs were used appropriately in the medical field. Sudan had also taken steps to strengthen the relationship between citizens and the police in urban areas, which had led to a reduction of crime.

81. Lastly, he called on the international community to define terrorism as an international crime and adopt appropriate laws to combat that phenomenon. He underscored, moreover, that developing countries would require additional technical assistance in order to address the dangers posed by criminal activity and illicit drugs; that support must be provided as part of a comprehensive approach that also provided for the cancellation of developing countries' debts and the lifting of the unilateral sanctions imposed on certain States.

82. **Mr. Barro** (Senegal) said that the fight against transnational organized crime had produced mixed results since Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) had identified the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials. Human trafficking, corruption, cybercrime and counterfeiting were further threats requiring increased international cooperation, particularly between criminal justice systems, as transnational criminal gangs often escaped prosecution simply by crossing borders.

83. The delegation called for deeper cooperation to defeat the scourge of terrorism. A clearly stated national will and greater international cooperation were needed to safeguard the rule of law, democracy and human rights. With the support of UNODC, the West African subregion had developed programmes to strengthen cooperation on criminal justice matters in Western Africa and the Sahel and had set up prosecutor and judicial cooperation networks, which Senegal called on the international community and the main donor countries to support.

84. Senegal had implemented a number of measures to combat drug trafficking and related crimes and to improve national drug addiction treatment systems. The country had also ratified all human trafficking conventions and protocols, and had begun to transpose these into substantive law.

85. **Mr. Yaremenko** (Ukraine) said that the illicit drug trade and organized crime were increasingly interconnected, and required a coordinated response from the United Nations system. The 2016 special session on the world drug problem was a milestone in international cooperation on the issue, but its outcome document must be put into practice with effective follow-up. A holistic, balanced approach should be pursued with full respect for human rights, seeking to reduce the social demand for drugs while enforcing drug laws to curb supply. It was important to prioritize prevention, treatment, drug harm reduction, rehabilitation, aftercare and social reintegration.

86. Ukraine appreciated the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants launched in January 2016 and aimed at supporting strategy and policy development, legislative assistance, capacity-building, regional and transregional cooperation, protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. The ongoing conflict in Donbas was fuelling massive internal migration flows, which in turn was hindering Ukraine's implementation of legislation to combat human trafficking.

87. **Ms. Abdullah** (Malaysia) said that transnational crime required a more comprehensive approach, with stricter and enhanced enforcement, new legislation and greater inter-agency cooperation. Malaysia was committed to international, regional and bilateral agreements as well as United Nations General Assembly resolutions aimed at combatting transnational crime.

88. The country was pursuing a comprehensive, integrated and balanced approach to the drug problem by reducing demand and supply through measures including preventive education, introduction of voluntary treatment and rehabilitation, reintegration and crime prevention measures targeting drug kingpins and syndicates. Pledging to increase cooperation with regional and international stakeholders to share knowledge, expertise and best practices on drug prevention and treatment, Malaysia firmly believed that every government had the right to determine the best manner to address the drug problem in the unique circumstances of its society.

89. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that Venezuela reaffirmed the principle of shared responsibility in addressing the world drug problem, even though countries were affected in different ways. The delegation stressed the need to further examine and tackle the key causes and elements of the drug issue without neglecting the concomitant health care and public safety consequences. To reduce both the supply of and demand for drugs, evidence-based measures were required that must be consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. That called for a radical change in how the success of or progress in national drug policies was measured.

90. Venezuela was currently implementing its new National Anti-Drug Plan 2015-2019 to combat drug trafficking and related crimes. The PEN Online system for issuing and responding to pre-export notifications allowed the government better supervision of international trade involving controlled chemicals. The capture of 134 citizens sought by Interpol for international drug trafficking between 2006 and 2015 demonstrated the country's commitment to international law enforcement cooperation. Venezuela rejected all international lists and certifications making specific and unilateral accusations against countries.

91. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh) said that human trafficking, money laundering, drug trafficking and drug abuse were increasingly transnational problems threatening global security and development that required a concerted international approach. Bangladesh was a source and transit country for trafficking in persons and had passed a number of laws and regulations to combat the issue while also implementing other related processes. Welcoming the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016, Bangladesh believed that the global compact on migration would provide the necessary framework for addressing the issues of all migrants.

92. Drug trafficking was a threat to socioeconomic development that required the active participation of all governments, societies and stakeholders. The Government of Bangladesh had been conducting a collaborative anti-drug campaign, providing drug addicts with treatment and rehabilitation, and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to tackle drug trafficking and abuse. Bangladesh had taken a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and violent extremism, and had succeeded in dismantling domestic terrorist groups and cutting off their sources of regular funding while also flushing out regional operatives.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.